

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 19-25, 43-45, 50 and 57. Please amend Claims 1-6, 11, 13-18, 26-31, 36, 38-42, 46-49 and 51-54. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing:**B1  
1.

(Currently amended) A hearing aid comprising:

a first section, the first section containing a microphone and electronics;

a second section attached to the first section, the second section containing a battery permanently affixed within the hearing aid and ~~a flex circuit mounted around the battery~~; and

a third section attached to the second section, the third section having a compliant tip and a receiver contained within a receptacle in the tip, ~~the flex~~ and:

a circuit electrically connecting the microphone, electronics, receiver and battery and wherein the tip comprises a mushroom shaped portion and a sound port is attached to the mushroom shaped portion and the tip includes a first durometer material, a second durometer material and a third durometer material, the first durometer material being more compliant than the second durometer material and the third durometer material being less compliant than the second durometer material.

2. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the [[flex]] circuit comprises a receiver mating portion and a microphone mating portion, the receiver mating portion abutting the receiver and the microphone mating portion abutting the microphone.

3. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the [[flex]] circuit comprises compliant electrical connectors for connecting the microphone, electronics, receiver and battery, the compliant electric connectors providing strain relief for the [[flex]] circuit.

4. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the [[flex]] circuit includes a microphone mating portion that abuts the microphone and forms an electric connection between the [[flex]] circuit and the microphone.
5. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the [[flex]] circuit includes a receiver mating portion that abuts the receiver and forms an electric connection between the [[flex]] circuit and the receiver.
6. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the [[flex]] circuit includes a plurality of conductive paths.
7. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 6 wherein the conductive paths include of at least one receiver lead.
8. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 6 wherein the conductive paths include at least one anode lead.
9. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 8 wherein the anode lead includes a discontinuity which prevents the hearing aid from drawing power from the battery, unless bridged.
10. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 9 further comprising an actuator mounted to the hearing aid, the actuator having a conductive surface contacting the anode such that the conductive surface bridges the discontinuity in the anode to engage the hearing aid in an ON mode of operation.
11. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 1 wherein the [[flex]] circuit comprises at least one aperture to allow air to travel to the battery.
12. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 1 further comprising a mechanical securing mechanism between the first section and the second section.

13. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim [[1]] 26 wherein the second section comprises a potting material surrounding the receiver such that the potting material and the receptacle of the tip encapsulate the receiver to attenuate acoustic feedback.
14. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim [[1]] 26 wherein the tip portion includes a channel for removal of wax from a bore in the tip.
15. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim [[1]] 26 wherein the tip portion is ~~comprises a mushroom shaped portion~~ and a sound port is attached to the ~~mushroom shaped tip~~ portion.
- b1 16. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 15 wherein the tip portion comprises a first durometer material and a second durometer material, the first durometer material being more compliant than the second durometer material.
17. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 16 wherein the first durometer material forms the mushroom ~~shaped portion~~ of the tip portion.
18. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 16 wherein the second durometer material forms the sound port ~~of the tip~~ portion.

Claims 19-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) A hearing aid comprising:
- a first section, the first section having a first housing containing a microphone and electronics;
  - a second section attached to the first section, the second section having a second housing containing a battery ~~a flex circuit mounted around the battery~~ permanently mounted; and

a third compliant section attached to the second section, the third section having a compliant tip portion, a body portion and a sound port portion and a receiver contained within a receptacle formed in the tip body portion; ~~the flex and;~~

a circuit electrically connecting the microphone, electronics, receiver and battery.

27. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the [[flex]] circuit comprises a receiver mating portion and a microphone mating portion, the receiver mating portion abutting the receiver and the microphone mating portion abutting the microphone.
28. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the [[flex]] circuit comprises compliant electrical connectors for connecting the microphone, electronics, receiver and battery, the compliant electric connectors providing strain relief for the [[flex]] circuit.
29. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the [[flex]] circuit includes a microphone mating portion that abuts the microphone and forms an electric connection between the [[flex]] circuit and the microphone.
30. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the [[flex]] circuit includes a receiver mating portion that abuts the receiver and forms an electric connection between the [[flex]] circuit and the receiver.
31. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the [[flex]] circuit includes a plurality of conductive paths.
32. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 31 wherein the conductive paths include of at least one receiver lead.
33. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 31 wherein the conductive paths include at least one anode lead.

34. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 33 wherein the anode lead includes a discontinuity which prevents the hearing aid from drawing power from the battery, unless bridged.
35. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 34 further comprising an actuator mounted to the hearing aid, the actuator having a conductive surface contacting the anode such that the conductive surface bridges the discontinuity in the anode to engage the hearing aid in an ON mode of operation.
36. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the [[flex]] circuit comprises at least one aperture to allow air to travel to the battery.
37. (Original) The hearing aid of Claim 26 further comprising a mechanical securing mechanism between the first section and the second section.
38. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the second section ~~comprises~~ includes a potting material ~~surrounding~~ covering the receiver such that the potting material and the receptacle of the ~~tip~~ body portion encapsulate the receiver to attenuate acoustic feedback.
39. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the ~~tip~~ sound port portion includes a channel for removal of wax from a bore ~~in the tip~~ in the sound port portion.
40. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 26 wherein the tip ~~comprises~~ portion is a mushroom shaped ~~portion~~ and a the sound port portion is integral with the tip ~~attached to the mushroom-shaped portion~~.
41. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 40 wherein the tip portion comprises a first durometer material and a the sound port portion comprises a second durometer material, the first durometer material being more compliant than the second durometer material.

42. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 41 wherein the first durometer material forms the mushroom ~~shaped portion~~ shape of the tip.

Claims 43-45 (Canceled)

46. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 45 1 wherein the first durometer material forms the mushroom shaped portion of the tip.

47. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 45 1 wherein the second durometer material forms the sound port of the tip.

48. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 45 1 wherein the third durometer material forms ~~the~~ a body portion of the tip.

49. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 40 wherein the tip further comprises a body portion, and the sound port ~~attached to~~ is integral with the body portion.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 49 wherein the first durometer material forms the mushroom ~~shaped portion~~ of the tip.

52. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 49 wherein the second durometer material forms the sound port portion ~~of the tip~~.

53. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of Claim 49 wherein the third durometer material forms the body portion ~~of the tip~~.

54.

(Currently amended) A tip for a hearing aid comprising at least three ~~two~~ materials, a first material having a first durometer and a second material having a second durometer, the first durometer of the first material being less than the second durometer of the second material and a third material having a third durometer which is greater than the durometer on the second material and a receptacle in the third material for containing a hearing aid receiver.

$1^{\circ} < 2^{\circ} < 3^{\circ}$  durometer

55.

(Previously presented) The tip of Claim 54 wherein the first material comprises a mushroom shaped portion of the tip.

56.

(Previously presented) The tip of Claim 54 wherein the second material comprises a sound bore of the tip.

57.

(Cancel)

58.

(Previously presented) The tip of Claim 57 wherein the third material comprises a body portion of the tip.

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